

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 1, 3-22 and 24-30 are pending in the application. In response to the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define patentable subject matter.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 20-22, 24, 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter because the Examiner asserts that the claimed command structure "is not tangibly embodied in a manner so as to be executable ... [and] the claim is directed to a non-functional descriptive material." By this Amendment, Applicant has rewritten claims 20-22, 24, 29 and 30 in method format. Applicant respectfully submit that the amended claims comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 101. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to remove the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection.

II. Prior Art Rejection

Claims 1, 3-22 and 24-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (pages 1-3 and Figs. 1 and 2 of the present application, referred to as "AAPA" by the Examiner) in view of the "AV/C Digital Interface Command Set General Specification" (1394 Trade Association, Version 3.0, April 15, 1998). Applicant respectfully traverse the prior art rejection.

The Examiner asserts that the AV/C Digital Interface Command Set General Specification "clearly disclosed a control device been notified of a future change on a connection status ... [in] Section 7.5 "Notify Commands" on Pages 18-19."¹ More specifically, the Examiner again asserts that Applicant's Admitted Prior Art discloses all of the features of the claims except for "the target devices responding to a communication command informing or notifying a control device about a change that occurs in a plug in the connection status parameter of the devices." However, the Examiner cites the "Status command" and "Notify command" sections (pages 17 and 18) and the "UNIT COMMANDS" section (pages 35-46) of the AV/C Digital Interface Command Set General Specification for allegedly disclosing "informing or notifying a control device [of] a change that happens in the connection status parameter of the AV devices."²

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 11 to further define the structure of connection management command as recited claim 20. Applicant respectfully submits that it is quite clear that the cited references do not teach or suggest a connection management command which comprises:

connection register information which specifies an output plug control register within the first device for transmitting information or an input plug control register within the second device for receiving information;
identification information which specifies an input or output plug at which a connection is established; and

¹ Office Action at page 8.

² Office Action at pages 6 and 7.

an operand which specifies at least one connection status parameter bit field of the output plug control register or the input plug control register, wherein command structure indicates that a control device desires to be notified of a future change of the at least one connection status parameter bit field.³

None of the disclosed commands (e.g., status, control and notify commands) of the AV/C Digital Interface Command Set General Specification have a command structure which specifies an iPCR or oPCR, an input plug or output plug, and a connection status parameter bit field of the iPCR or oPCR.⁴ Similarly, Applicant's Admitted Prior Art fails to teach or suggest the claimed structure of the connection management command which is missing from the AV/C Digital Interface Command Set General Specification.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

³ The structure of the claimed connection management command is shown in Fig. 4 of the present application.

⁴ See, for example, the Unit command formats shown in Figures 9-1 to 9-23 on pages 35-46 of the AV/C Digital Interface Command Set General Specification.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/629,424

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher R. Lipp
Registration No. 41,157

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: August 19, 2005

Attorney Docket No.: Q60211